

Lesson 33

Remember Your Ps and Qs— Presidential Promises and Quotable Quotations

Objective

- To review U.S. history through presidential mottos and memorable quotations

Notes to the Teacher

Frequently two-word designations of presidential administrations or recognizable quotations from speeches, documents, court decisions, and writings act as a shorthand key to complex themes. For the student of American history, the real importance is not in identifying the source but in explaining the motto or quotation's significance among the larger themes of American history.

During the course of the year, Advanced Placement students cover a multitude of ideas in relatively rapid fashion. Review, preferably in a variety of contexts different from the original presentation, is essential. In this lesson, students review the course of American history through presidential administrations and significant quotations. For each, they identify the presidential administration or source of the quotation and its larger importance in explaining a key theme in American history.

Procedure

1. Distribute **Handout 37** and have students attempt to complete the handout individually.
2. Go over responses in class and answer questions that students may have. Insist that students explain major accomplishments of each presidential administration, as well as the larger importance of the idea presented in each quotation.

Suggested Responses, Part A:

1. Theodore Roosevelt's domestic program tried to give equal opportunity to business executives, farmers, laborers, and consumers. It included attempts to break "bad" trusts, Meat Inspection Act, Pure Food and Drug Act, forced arbitration of the anthracite coal strike, and conservation measures.

2. Taft endorsed the Roosevelt Corollary and expanded America's role as police officer by substituting dollars for bullets in promoting loans to business executives in Latin America and the Far East.
3. Although Eisenhower did not extend the welfare state begun by Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman, he did not tamper with programs already in place.
4. Wilson's progressive reform agenda sought to strengthen democracy through programs such as the Underwood Tariff, Clayton Act, Federal Reserve Act, and Federal Trade Commission.
5. Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal included a variety of relief, recovery, and reform acts designed to get the country out of the Great Depression and avoid a similar catastrophe in the future. During FDR's administration, the country first adopted the concept that the government has a responsibility to "promote the general welfare."
6. Polk promised to complete the country's expansion to the Pacific Ocean through acquisition of the Oregon Country, Texas, and what became the Mexican Cession.
7. Hoover believed that the country's prosperity and greatness to date had stemmed from rugged individualism rather than government action and that this philosophy would work again in the Great Depression.
8. Lyndon Johnson believed the country could eliminate poverty and racial injustice, improve education for all, and revitalize city slums to create a truly "great society." Programs included the Civil Rights Act, "war on poverty," Voting Rights Act, Medicare, Immigration Act, and Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

9. Truman's Fair Deal aimed to preserve and extend the New Deal but met considerable Congressional opposition.
10. Kennedy's New Frontier sought to find opportunity in space, medicine, technology, and social relations. Many of his proposals for civil rights, poverty programs, Medicare, and education became law after his assassination.

Suggested Responses, Part B:

1. Abraham Lincoln set the tone for the Lincoln-Douglas debates by expressing concern that a nation divided by slavery could not exist half slave and half free, but would become one or the other. His aim was to preserve the Union.
2. In *McCulloch v. Maryland*, the Supreme Court ruled that a state could not take measures that would destroy the Union, so Maryland's tax on the Baltimore branch of the Bank of the United States was unconstitutional. This established the principle that the national government is dominant.
3. Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute operated on the principle that African Americans would be well-advised to seek training in the trades rather than strive immediately for social equality and the "opportunity to spend a dollar in the opera house."
4. Earl Warren ruled "separate but equal," established in 1896 by *Plessy v. Ferguson* unconstitutional in the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision.
5. This goal established in the Declaration of Independence has remained an American standard for judging progress toward equality since 1776.
6. Wilson's unrealized goal in the "Great War" was to end war for all time.
7. At the time of the Civil War, the Confederate States of America sought the right to leave the Union and fought for that right.
8. In Franklin Roosevelt's War Message to Congress, he made this memorable reference to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.
9. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dramatic speech at the Lincoln Memorial during the 1963 March on Washington was a major factor in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
10. John Marshall's statement in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) established a precedent for judicial review.
11. This provision in Article I of the Constitution gave Congress the authority to use implied powers.
12. The Mayflower Compact (1620) became the first document of self-government in the English colonies.
13. Polk's campaign theme suggested that this country might demand all the Oregon territory to the southern border of Alaska, but this left him room for negotiating and compromising with the British later.
14. These were key issues in the American decision to go to war in 1812.
15. William Jennings Bryan made a passionate attack on the gold standard at the Democratic nominating convention in 1896 with his "Cross of Gold" speech.
16. Franklin Roosevelt sought, for economic reasons if no others, to end the Roosevelt Corollary and establish friendlier relations with Latin America.
17. Kennedy's inspirational message in his 1961 Inaugural Address set the theme for a new commitment to America.
18. Franklin Roosevelt used this rationale in calling for the Lend-Lease Act prior to our involvement in the military aspects of World War II.
19. In his Second Inaugural, Lincoln called for a lenient peace and a quick return to the Union of the Confederate States after the Civil War.

20. Washington set a long-standing policy of United States' foreign affairs in his Farewell Address.
21. Andrew Jackson made the retort in response to John Marshall's decision in support of the Cherokee Nation in Worcester v. Georgia in 1832.
22. At the time of the South Carolina threat to nullify the Tariff of Abominations, Daniel Webster, the Massachusetts Senator, suggested this should be the motto of the United States.
23. This became the Federalist rallying cry after the French made demands for a bribe, a loan, and an apology from President John Adams in 1797 in the XYZ Affair.
24. Lincoln's primary objective in the Civil War was the preservation of the Union.
25. Wilson's idealistic plan for a negotiated settlement of the war before either side achieved a victory was unacceptable to Germany in January 1917, and Germany instead resumed unrestricted submarine warfare, a step that led to U.S. entry into the war.
26. This became the rallying cry of those favoring war against Spain in 1898.
27. This became the rallying cry of Texans in their war for independence from Mexico in 1836.
28. As President, Theodore Roosevelt pursued a vigorous foreign policy based on this old African saying. Taking the Canal Zone and pursuing the Roosevelt Corollary in Latin America are two examples.
29. The Truman Doctrine offering peacetime aid to Greece and Turkey in 1947 marked a significant break with Washington's advice in his Farewell Address to pursue a more isolationist foreign policy.
30. In his Inaugural speech in 1933, Franklin Roosevelt tried to inspire confidence in his ability to lead.
31. The Declaration of the Sentiments of Women issued at the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention based the claims of women on the Declaration of Independence.
32. Monroe's 1823 State of the Union address issued this warning, now a cornerstone of American foreign policy, against European expansion in this hemisphere.
33. Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation committed the United States to freeing the slaves and, at the same time, helping gain British support for the Union in the Civil War.
34. The Preamble of the United States Constitution, written in 1787, promised an effort to create a more effective government than the state-dominated Articles of Confederation had provided.
35. In one of her published newspaper columns, Eleanor Roosevelt, ever the human rights activist, wrote this reassuring and inspiring statement.
36. Andrew Carnegie's "Gospel of Wealth," written in 1889, celebrated the benefits that great amounts of accumulated wealth could do for the public. Not all were convinced that his treatment of workers was justified by this philosophy of philanthropy.
37. Frederick Jackson Turner, in his famous 1890 "Significance of the Frontier in American History," helped Americans to understand this neglected factor in American development.
38. This first telegraph message sent in 1837 introduced a revolution in communication.
39. Ronald Reagan's philosophy of government in the 1980s was based on this motto.
40. Betty Freidan, in *The Feminist Mystique* published in 1963, touched a responsive chord among many women and essentially started the women's rights movement.